MangaBox

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ART BY
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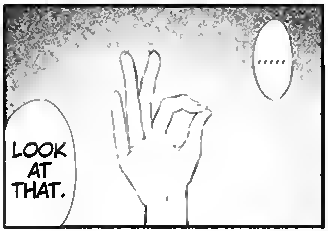
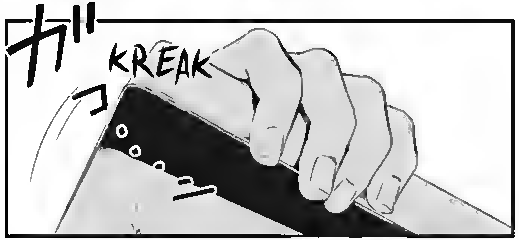
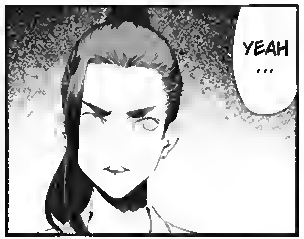
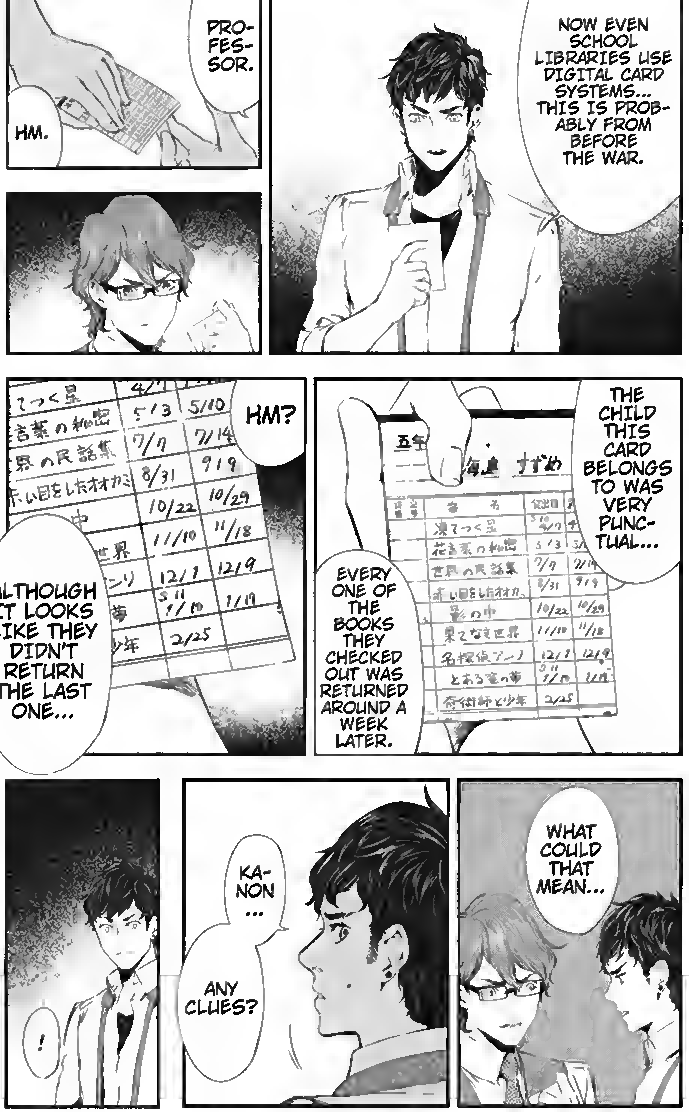
ORIGINAL STORY
KOEI TECMO GAMES





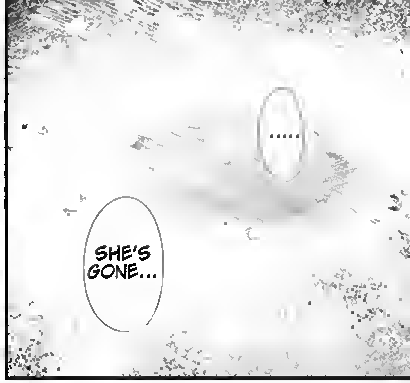


THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

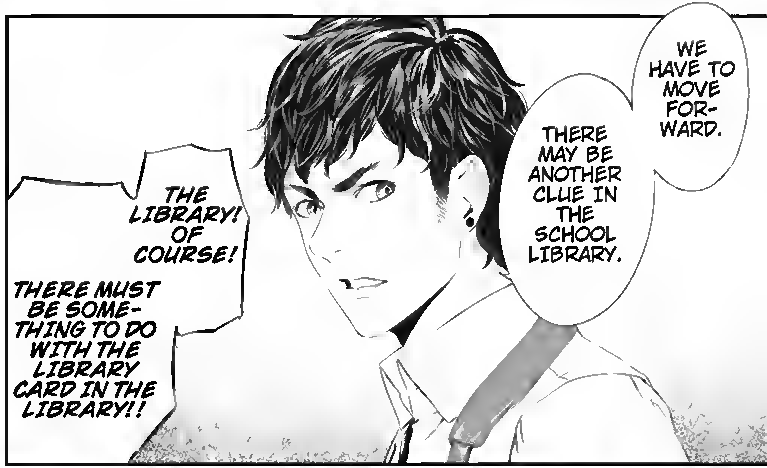

PRO-FES-SOR.
HM.
NOW EVEN SCHOOL LIBRARIES USE DIGITAL CARD SYSTEMS... THIS IS PROB-ABLY FROM BEFORE THE WAR.
HM?
ALTHOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE THEY DIDN'T RETURN THE LAST ONE...
EVERY ONE OF THE BOOKS THEY CHECKED OUT WAS RETURNED AROUND A WEEK LATER.
THE CHILD THIS CARD BELONGS TO WAS VERY PUNC-TUAL...
!
KA-NON ...
ANY CLUES?
WHAT COULD THAT MEAN...
.....
IT'S ...
WHAT IS THIS? NOT ANOTHER...
五年一組
海鳥 すずめ
IT'S A VERY OLD LIBRARY CARD.
NO...
I THINK WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO COMBINE THIS WITH THE THINGS WE'VE ALREADY COLLECTED AND FIND A VERY IMPOR-TANT CLUE.
SHF

WAAAAA
AAAAA
AAAAAAA

RYU-ZAKI-KUN...
H-HEY!


.....
SHE'S GONE...

LET'S GO.


WE HAVE TO MOVE FOR-WARD.
THERE MAY BE ANOTHER CLUE IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY.
THE LIBRARY! OF COURSE!
THERE MUST BE SOME-THING TO DO WITH THE LIBRARY CARD IN THE LIBRARY!!

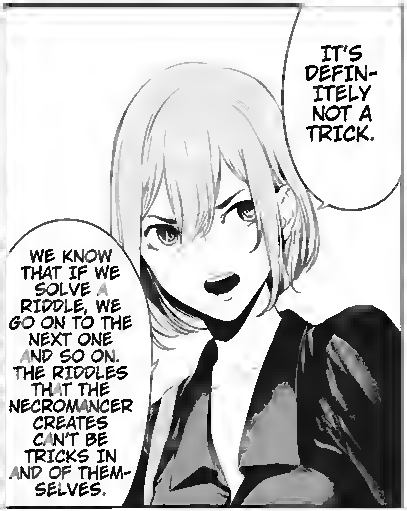
WE'RE OKAY WITHOUT KANON. IT'S ENOUGH TO KNOW BASICALLY WHERE WE'LL FIND IT.
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT!
I'M SURE WE'LL MEET HER AGAIN.
ALL RIGHT! NEXT, THE LI-BRARY !!

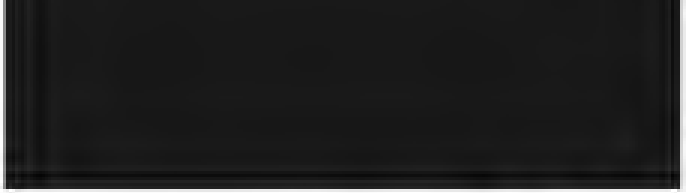
NO!
NOT THAT WAY!
THIS WAY!
ZOOM!!
KRAK
?!
IF YOU LEAVE THE BARRIER, WE CAN'T FOLLOW YOU!!
AHHHHH!
EEEEK
AAAA

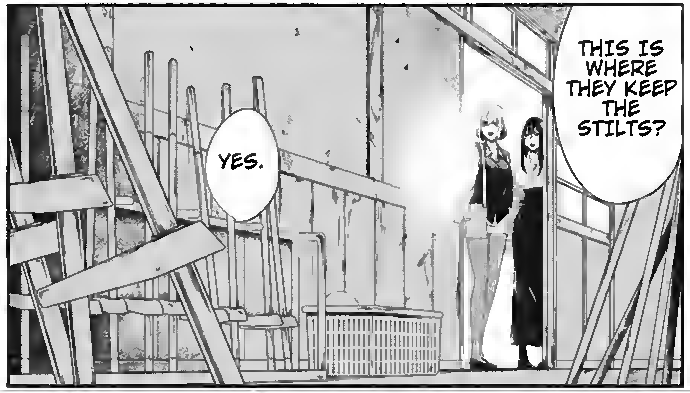
TMP
A-ANOTHER FORK IN THE ROAD!
PANT
PANT
PANT
WHICH WAY, SHIRA-SAGI-SAN?!
TMP
TMP
ME AGAIN?!
WHAAT?!
WH?!
TMP
F-
FINE...
TMP

IF IT WAS A LIE, THE NECROMANCER WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CREATE SUCH A STRONG BARRIER.
.....

H-HEY, SARA-CHAN.
WHAT IS A NECRO-MANCER, ANYWAY?


IT'S DEFIN-ITELY NOT A TRICK.
WE KNOW THAT IF WE SOLVE A RIDDLE, WE GO ON TO THE NEXT ONE AND SO ON. THE RIDDLES THAT THE NECROMANCER CREATES CAN'T BE TRICKS IN AND OF THEM-SELVES.



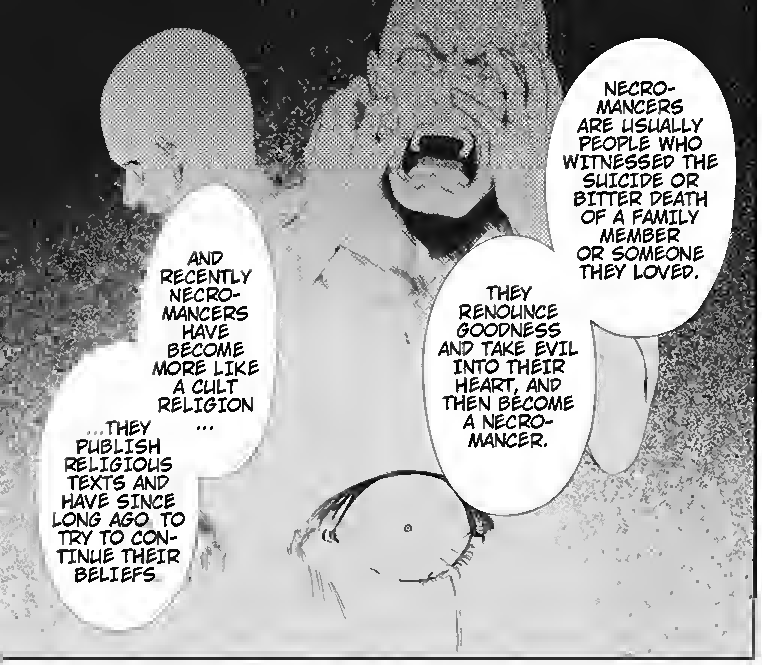

THIS IS WHERE THEY KEEP THE STILTS?
YES.

A NECRO-MANCER IS A HUMAN BEING WHO SEES ALL OF THE HELLISH SUFFERING, TRAGEDY, AND HUMILIATION OF THE DEAD...
...AND IS CURSED TO TAKE IT ONTO THEM-SELVES.

YEAH... I'VE HEARD OF THEM AND ALL...
BUT WHAT DOES THAT REALLY MEAN?

...OH, YES.
I SHOULD EXPLAIN.

WHAT IF WE'RE BEING TRICKED BY THE EVIL SPIRITS ?
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'RE SUP-POSED TO DO HERE?


NECRO-MANCERS ARE USUALLY PEOPLE WHO WITNESSED THE SUICIDE OR BITTER DEATH OF A FAMILY MEMBER OR SOMEONE THEY LOVED.
THEY RENOUNCE GOODNESS AND TAKE EVIL INTO THEIR HEART, AND THEN BECOME A NECRO-MANCER.
AND RECENTLY NECRO-MANCERS HAVE BECOME MORE LIKE A CULT RELIGION ...
...THEY PUBLISH RELIGIOUS TEXTS AND HAVE SINCE LONG AGO TO TRY TO CON-TINUE THEIR BELIEFS.

YOU'VE HEARD OF OUIJA BOARDS AND THE LIKE, HAVEN'T YOU?
THOSE ARE VERY EASY WAYS TO CALL UP AND COMMUNICATE WITH SPIRITS, AND EVIL SPIRITS CAN BE AMONG THEM.

HUH ?
CURSED ?!

NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT..
.....

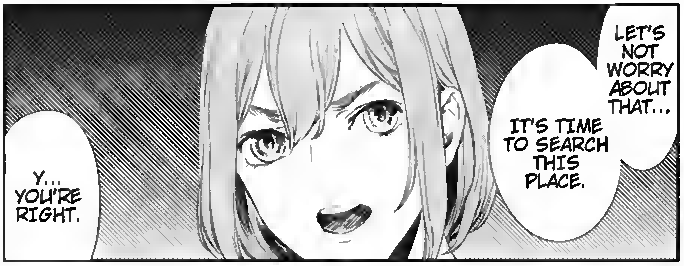
YES. THAT MEANS ANYONE CAN BECOME A NECRO-MANCER.
IF THE OPPORTUNITY WERE TO ARISE, EVEN YOU OR I COULD BE ONE.

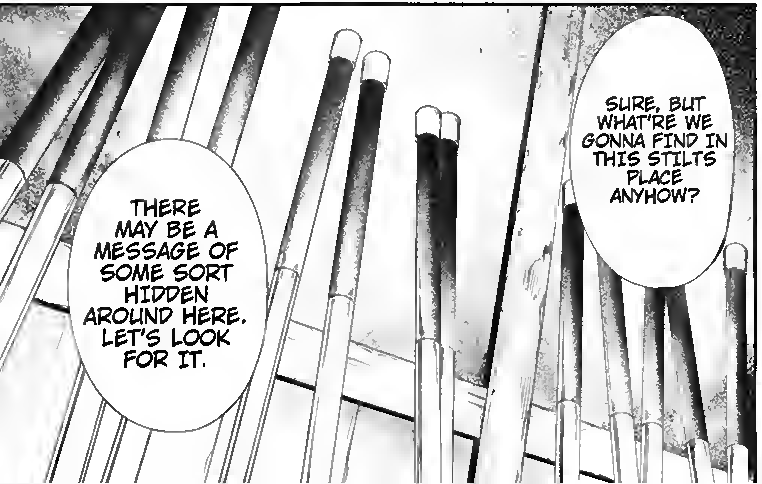
WAIT, WAIT...
SO, THEN ...
THAT MEANS ...

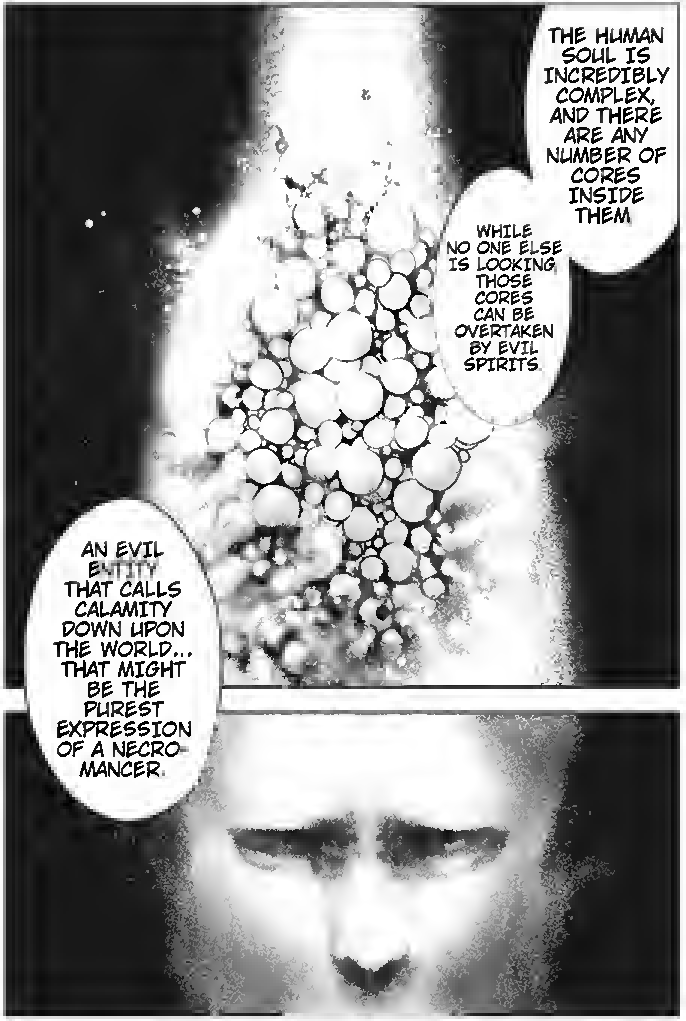
CUMULA-TIVE DARK-NESS...
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO IMAGINE IT...

THE NECRO-MANCER WHO IS AMONG US NOW...
...WELL ...
...THEY'RE SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN POSSESSED BY THE CUMULATIVE DARKNESS OF ALL THE EVIL SPIRITS WHO HAVE BEEN STUCK IN THIS SCHOOL FOR SO MANY YEARS.

.....
.....


LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT...
IT'S TIME TO SEARCH THIS PLACE.
Y... YOU'RE RIGHT.


SURE, BUT WHAT'RE WE GONNA FIND IN THIS STILTS PLACE ANYHOW?
THERE MAY BE A MESSAGE OF SOME SORT HIDDEN AROUND HERE. LET'S LOOK FOR IT.

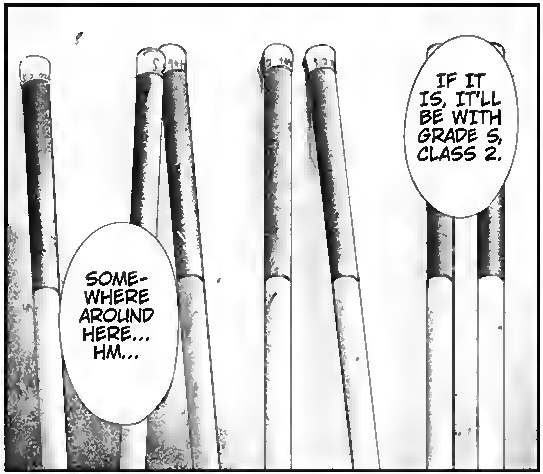

THE HUMAN SOUL IS INCREDIBLY COMPLEX, AND THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF CORES INSIDE THEM.
WHILE NO ONE ELSE IS LOOKING THOSE CORES CAN BE OVERTAKEN BY EVIL SPIRITS.
AN EVIL ENTITY THAT CALLS CALAMITY DOWN UPON THE WORLD... THAT MIGHT BE THE PUREST EXPRESSION OF A NECROMANCER.

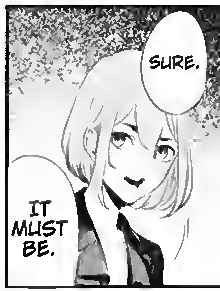
KRAK
WASHI-ZUKI-SAN!!
!!
KLATTER
YAAAA!
JEEZ, SARA-CHAN, YOU OKAY?
THE STILTS SUDDENLY FELL DOWN ALL AT ONCE... HOW...?
.....

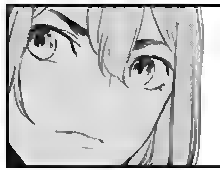
!
WAIT! LOOK AT THAT!

THEY'RE ALL SO OLD...
THERE ARE NAMES WRITTEN ON THESE. I WONDER IF YOURS IS IN HERE, TOO, WASHIZUKI-SAN...

.....


SOME-WHERE AROUND HERE... HM...
IF IT IS, IT'LL BE WITH GRADE 5, CLASS 2.


SURE.
IT MUST BE.

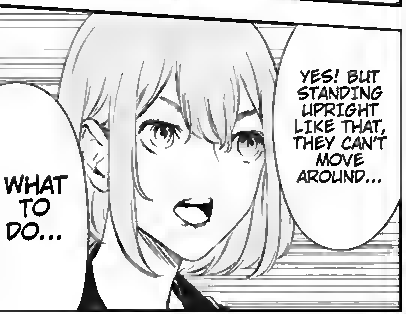


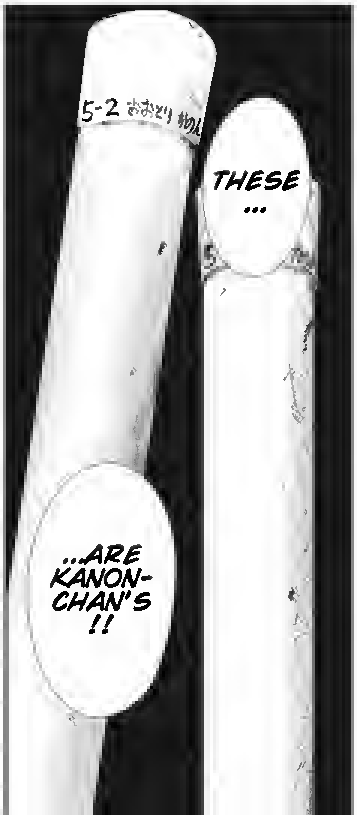
!!

AH!
THERE IT IS.

...!!
WAIT!!

...THE ONE WHOSE HAND WE SAW IN THE SCIENCE CLASS-ROOM?!
WAIT, IS SHE...


YES! BUT STANDING UPRIGHT LIKE THAT, THEY CAN'T MOVE AROUND...
WHAT TO DO...


5-2
THESE ...
...ARE KANON-CHAN'S !!

WELL, THEY'RE STILTS, SOMEONE HAS TO BE STANDING ON THEM FOR THEM TO MOVE.
HMM ...

THEY'RE STAND-ING...
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A GHOST IS USING THEM RIGHT NOW...

OH, THERE IS THAT...
UH HUH
STARE
BUT... I'M JUST BRAIN-STORM-ING...
Who'd do that?
WHY'RE YOU TWO...
HEY ...
HUH? WHAT?
.....
NOT... ME...?!
TO BE CONTINUED...